

Message Text

SECRET

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12
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S/S:LMACFARLANE

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R 060300Z MAY 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 110005

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

REF: STATE 96603

FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 3146 ACTION SECSTATE 28 APRIL 76.

QUOTE

S E C R E T SEOUL 3146

EXDIS

REQUEST DEPT PASS SECDEF WASHDC

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR KS US
SUBJ: US INFANTRY COMPANY ON THE DMZ

REF: STATE 96603

1. WE BELIEVE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. INFANTRY COMPANY FROM DMZ
IS DESIRABLE FROM MILITARY POINT OF VIEW. THE PRIMARY ACTION IS
AN INPLACE RELIEF OF ELEMENTS OF ONE COMPANY FROM 2ND US INFANTRY

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DIV BY ELEMENTS OF THE 1ST ROKA DIV. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE US

INFANTRY COMPANY FROM THE 500-METER SECTOR OF THE DMZ WOULD PERMIT RETURN OF THE UNIT TO THE PARENT BATTALION AND SHOULD ENHANCE COMMAND AND CONTROL. TRAINING COULD BE IMPROVED. THE DMZ MISSION COULD BE ASSUMED BY ROKA WITH MINIMAL EFFORT. SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION OF THE JSA IS NOT CONTINGENT UPON RETENTION OF THE 500-METER STRIP OF DMZ UNDER US CONTROL.

2. LIKEWISE JULY-AUGUST TIMEFRAME PRESENTS NO MILITARY PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE TRANSFER SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO ROKS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THESE PLANS WITH THEM AND ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE INITIAL RELUCTANCE TO SUPPORT MOVE WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD BE MISINTERPRETED DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS STEP BACKWARD BY U.S. CONSEQUENTLY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO WORK OUT PLANS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETAILS WITH ROKS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE CLEAR THE POSITIVE MILITARY ASPECTS OF CHANGE AND THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS IN LOWERING UNC PROFILE, AND TO ENSURE SMOOTH TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY.

3. EMBASSY AND UNC REQUEST EARLY AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS AND COORDINATE COMBINED PLANS FOR TRANSFER WITH ROKG POLITICAL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, RECOMMEND THAT ACTUAL DATE OF ACTION BE DECIDED HERE. SNIDER UNQUOTE SISCO

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NNN

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